

Cemetery Trustees Meeting Minutes - AMENDED
May 14, 2019

Attending: (x=attended; a=absent)

Mary Shaw, Chairman	x
Margaret Roberge, Vice Chairman	x
Woody Openo	x
Neil Larson	x
Amy LaBelle	a
Michael Bobinsky, Director of Public Works & Utilities	x

Recording: Jennifer Gosselin, Executive Assistant

Mary Shaw opened the meeting opened at 2:33 PM

Minutes of April Meeting

Minutes were reviewed: Mary Shaw noted that the minutes incorrectly reflect that Amy LaBelle was present for the April meeting. Also, Woody Openo noticed that the fourth line under “Director’s Report” contained a grammatical error (“begin”) and that he had discussed having the Chapel roof repaired before the wall under Unfinished Business (rather than the wall before the roof). Woody moved to accept the minutes with the changes noted; Neil Larson seconded the motion to approve the March Minutes with the corrections. All voted in favor to accept the Minutes with the aforementioned corrections.

Comments by Visitors

There were no visitors at this month’s meeting.

Communications

No communications were received since the last meeting.

Director of Public Works’ Report

The Director’s Report was reviewed by the members with Michael Bobinsky. For this meeting, Mike obtained photos from Cassidy Bros. showing the current status of the fence. A high gloss finish will be used on the final coat.

Also discussed was that JLG’s summer maintenance schedule for the cemetery will be performed on a weekly basis.

Mike left the meeting at 3:05 p.m. to attend a meeting at City Hall.

Reports of Special Projects of Sitting Members

A. Chapel Summer Events

The Funky Divas of Gospel have confirmed their return to the Chapel this summer (June 2) as have Artful Noise (a string trio featuring Sally Wituszynski, Gary Hodges, and one other). Margaret Roberge notes that the Foster’s Daily Democrat has an insert that gives information on the local “happenings” around Somersworth. She

discussed that this might be a better way to inform people rather than distributing flyers. She also discussed the need/desire for social media as a means of disseminating information to the public. Margaret suggested she would like to see Neil Larson serve as point from the Trustees to work with City staff on a Facebook account for the Cemetery. . Maggie is also considering inviting the author from Lebanon, Maine to come speak at the Chapel this summer.

Additional discussions included confirming the amount to pay the Funky Divas (\$200) for their appearance. Maggie motioned to authorize the payment of \$200 to the Funky Divas of Gospel; Neil seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

By way of update on Peter Michaud, Maggie reports that Mr. Michaud is now working in Portsmouth and is no longer available for speaking during the summer chapel series.

Maggie has extended an invitation to Journey's End to perform. They are volunteer musicians who play music for those being cared for in hospice. She has not received a response from them.

Also, Maggie motioned to pay Artful Noise \$300 from the FY20 budget for their appearance (after July 1); the motion was seconded by Neil and passed unanimously.

A third motion was made by Maggie to offer \$50.00 to the Lebanon author for her appearance; the motion was seconded by Neil and passed unanimously.

B. May Planting

Trustees discussed the flowers to be planted at the cemetery for Memorial Day. Sites discussed were the urns at the front door of the Chapel, the John Straw grave site, the Furber-Poor stone, the Pray grave, the GAR stone, the Legion monument, the garden in the cremation area and the triangle in front of the Chapel. Geraniums and hostas were discussed for all areas except the cremation area. Perennials were discussed for that location.

Unfinished Business

A. Status of Moose Plate Grant Project

This topic was previously discussed with the Director's Report.

Miscellaneous

Neil Larson made a suggestion of using social media as a way of keeping the public apprised of cemetery happenings, wants, needs, etc. There would not be any solicitation or donations, just cemetery news for those who are interested. Staff will followup with Neil on next steps with enhancing use of social media tools for cemetery information updates.

Woody brought a brochure from the 1844 Laurel Hill Cemetery in Saco, Maine, which is known for its daffodils. He would like for the Trustees to consider a field trip for general viewing and ideas.

Future projects were suggested: photographing each stone and identifying the condition of each stone (inventory list).

Neil will reach out to Amy about the best time to meet. Neil's preference is a 3:00 PM meeting, rather than a 2:30 PM meeting. Neil submitted a motion to change the meeting time to 3:00 PM on the second Tuesday of the month; Maggie seconded; all in favor. Staff will communicate this change to the City Clerk's office for future meetings.

Next meeting is June 11, 2019 at 3:00 PM at the Department of Public Works & Utilities on 18 Lilac Lane, Somersworth, NH. Elections will be held at this meeting.

Margaret Roberge moved and Neil Larson seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 3:51 PM